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Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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**TO:** Technical Staff  
and Other Interested Persons

**FROM:** Jon B. Marshack, D.Env.  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
Environmental/Technical Support

**DATE:** 18 April 2001

**SIGNATURE:**

**SUBJECT: WATER QUALITY GOALS UPDATE**

This is the fourth notice of changes since the publication of the August 2000 edition of *A Compilation of Water Quality Goals*. This notice contains an explanation of the most recent changes as well as instructions for updating your copy of *Water Quality Goals*. The *Water Quality Goals* report and all updates may be obtained on the internet at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/wq\\_goals/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/wq_goals/).

### Revised Aquatic Life Criteria for Cadmium

In early April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) released a new document entitled, *2001 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Cadmium*. The document and a related fact sheet may be obtained on the internet at the following address:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/aqualife/cadmium/>

The document contains new national recommended criteria to protect freshwater and saltwater aquatic life and their uses. The new criteria, especially for freshwater, are significantly more stringent than previous national criteria from USEPA. Freshwater criteria vary with hardness as shown on the attached table labeled "Inorganics Page 15b". Saltwater criteria include a 4-day average of 8.8 ug/L and a 24-hour average of 40 ug/L, both expressed as dissolved metal. Note that the Criteria Maximum Concentrations for both saltwater and freshwater use a 24-hour averaging period instead of 1-hour.

National recommended water quality criteria are intended to provide states and tribes with information to help them develop water quality standards pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act. These criteria are not directly enforceable criteria, such as those in the National Toxics Rule and the California Toxics Rule. As such, they cannot currently be applicable to California surface waters. They may be used by the State and Regional Water Boards to develop future water quality objectives.

### Public Health Goal for Aluminum

In early April, the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) released a Public Health Goal (PHG) of 0.6 mg/L or 600 ug/L for aluminum in drinking water. PHGs are levels of drinking water contaminants at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of

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exposure. The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 (Health and Safety Code Section 116365) requires OEHHA to adopt PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations. PHGs adopted by OEHHA will be considered by the California Department of Health Services in establishing or revising primary drinking water standards (California Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs). Technical support documents for PHGs are available on the internet at the following address:

<http://www.oehha.org/water/phg/>

PHGs and other toxicological criteria may be used to evaluate compliance with narrative water quality objectives for Toxicity in the Basin Plans, as these objectives relate to beneficial uses involving human exposures (e.g., municipal and domestic supply or "MUN"). Therefore, ambient groundwater or surface water with chemical concentrations above PHGs could be interpreted as violating water quality objectives if the waters are designated MUN.

### **Proposed Repeal of New Arsenic MCL**

USEPA has proposed to repeal their new drinking water standard for arsenic, adopted on 22 January 2001. USEPA's final determination will be reported to you in a future Water Quality Goals update. Please see the 8 February 2001 Water Quality Goals Update for more information on water quality numerical limits for arsenic.

### **Proposition 65 Listings**

The California initiative statute Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, makes it illegal to discharge a significant amount of a chemical known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity to a source of drinking water. It also makes it illegal to expose persons to a significant amount of any of these chemicals without prior notification. In December 2000, bromoethane (ethyl bromide) was added to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer. In February, the pesticide propachlor was also added to this list. Proposition 65 information may be found on the internet at the following address:

<http://www.oehha.org/prop65.html>

In February, OEHHA published a Prop. 65 Status Report, that provides updated information on safe harbor levels -- No Significant Risk Levels for carcinogens and Maximum Allowable Daily Levels for reproductive toxins.

### **Updating Your Copy of *Water Quality Goals***

Please make the following changes to your hard copy of *A Compilation of Water Quality Goals*, August 2000 edition, to reflect the above changes:

#### ***Inorganics Page 1***

*Aluminum:* Change the California Public Health Goal to read, "600" and delete the footnote.

#### ***Inorganics Page 3***

*Cadmium:* Change the USEPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Freshwater Aquatic life, 4-day Average and 24-hour Average to read, "see page 15b (1)", and delete the 1-hour Average entry.

***Inorganics Page 4***

*Cadmium:* Change the California Toxics Rule Criteria for Inland Surface Waters for Freshwater Aquatic Life Protection, Continuous Concentration (4-day Average) and Maximum Concentration (1-hour Average) to read, “see page 15a (1, 142)”.

***Inorganics Page 5***

*Cadmium:* Change the USEPA National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Saltwater Aquatic Life Protection, 4-day Average to read, “8.8 (1)” and 24-hour Average to read, “40 (1)”, and delete the 1-hour Average entry.

***Inorganics Page 15***

Replace this page with Page 15a and Page 15b, attached.

***Organics Page 20***

*Chlorothalonil:* Change the Proposition 65 entry to read “100 #” and delete the footnote.

*Daminozide:* Change the Proposition 65 entry to read “20 #” and delete the footnote.

***Organics Page 38***

*Ethyl bromide:* Place a pound sign (#) in the Proposition 65 column.

*Ethylene thiourea (ETU):* Change the Proposition 65 entry to read “10 / 15 #R”.

***Organics Page 56***

*Methyl mercury:* Change the Proposition 65 entry to read “#R” and delete the footnotes.

***Organics Page 68***

*Polychlorinated biphenyls:* Change the Proposition 65 entry to read “0.045 #R” and delete the footnotes.

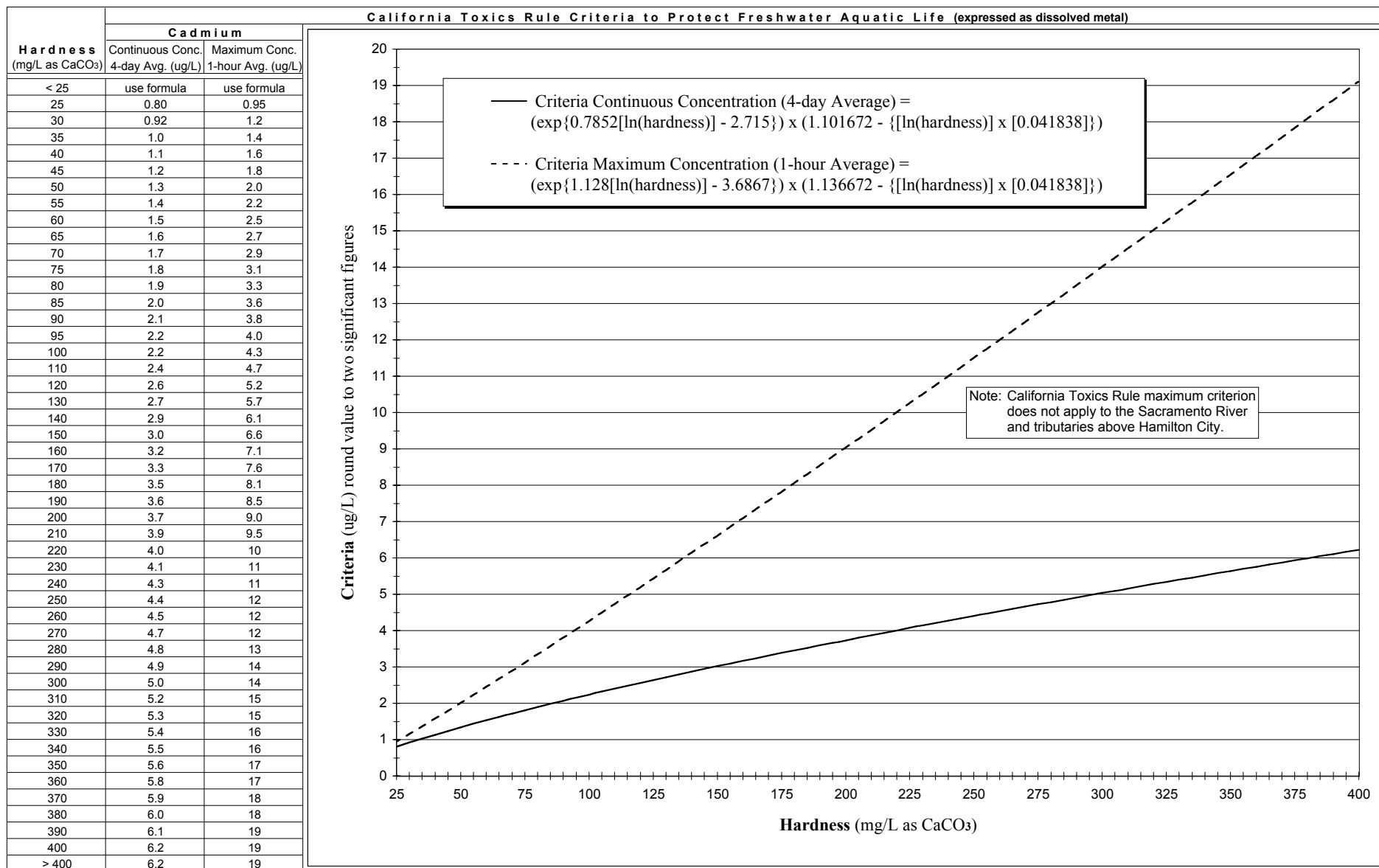
*Propachlor:* Place a pound sign (#) in the Proposition 65 column.

Please contact me by phone at (916) 255-3123 or CalNet 8-494-3123 or by e-mail at [marshaj@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:marshaj@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov) if you have questions.

Attachments (2)

cc: Frances McChesney, Office of the Chief Counsel, SWRCB  
Tim Regan, Office of the Chief Counsel, SWRCB

# WATER QUALITY GOALS FOR INORGANIC CONSTITUENTS FRESHWATER AQUATIC LIFE - CADMIUM



# WATER QUALITY GOALS FOR INORGANIC CONSTITUENTS

## FRESHWATER AQUATIC LIFE - CADMIUM

